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STATEMENT TO BE USED IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA INQUIRY ONLY

The apparent defection of former CIA employee Edward Howard raises serious questions about management, personnel and security procedures at the Central Intelligence Agency and the FBI. Examination of these matters falls within the oversight responsibilities of the Select Committee on Intelligence.

We are, therefore, initiating an inquiry into the circumstances of the hiring of Mr. Howard, his assignments while an employee of the CIA, his activities while an employee, the reasons for and manner of his separation from the Agency, and insofar as they can be determined, his actions and those of the appropriate U.S. agencies from the time of his separation until his disappearance.

We are not prejudging any aspect of this case and intend to do nothing to jeopardize or prejudice either the ongoing investigation or any subsequent adjudication which may follow. We will listen to anything, anyone in or out of government has to tell us relative to this incident.

To do anything less, under these circumstances, would not serve the interests of the Committee, the Senate or the Intelligence Community.